

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 SY-05 MCT-01 ACDA-12 SP-02
ICA-11 AID-05 EB-08 NSC-05 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-07
OMB-01 CEA-01 COME-00 PC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SIL-01 LAB-04
/117 W

-----040135 131410Z /46

P 131209Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7054

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

13THAF CLARK AB RP

CINCPACREPPH SUBIC BAY RP

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, RP

SUBJECT: MARCOS DELIVERS STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS

REF: MANILA 9770

1. SUMMARY: PRESIDENT MARCOS DELIVERED HIS STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS AT THE OPENING OF THE INTERIM BATASANG PAMBANSA (IBP) JUNE 12. IN THE HOUR AND A HALF SPEECH HE STRESSED THAT FOR THE FIRST TIME FILIPINOS EXERCISED FULL SOVEREIGNTY OVER THEIR NATION AND THAT THE US GOVERNMENT ONLY A MONTH AGO RECOGNIZED PHILIPPINE SOVEREIGNTY OVER ITS MILITARY BASES.

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MARCOS DEVOTED CONSIDERABLE TIME TO REHEARSING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF HIS REGIME AND JUSTIFYING THE IMPOSITION OF MARTIAL LAW. AMONG HIS ACCOMPLISHMENTS HE EMPHASIZED PARTICULARLY THE GROWING PRIDE OF FILIPINOS. HE MADE ONLY ONE EXPLICIT REFERENCE TO HUMAN RIGHTS, SUGGESTING THAT A STRONG GOVERNMENT IS BETTER ABLE TO PROTECT INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS THAN A WEAK REGIME. MARCOS LISTED

THE ECONOMIC PRIORITIES HE SEES FOR THE COUNTRY, INCLUDING AN ANNUAL GROWTH RATE OF 7.7 PERCENT. OTHER PRIORITIES INCLUDE THE SATISFACTION OF SOCIAL NEEDS AND INCREASED PUBLIC ORDER. MARCOS NOTED A RISE IN PETTY CRIME AND FIREARMS VIOLATIONS AS WELL AS INCREASED "TERRORISM" IN THE SOUTH. HE INDICATED HE SAW NO IMMEDIATE EXTERNAL THREATS TO PHILIPPINE SECURITY, BUT CAUTIONED THAT THE PHILIPPINES MUST WATCH DEVELOPMENTS ABROAD CAREFULLY. THE DOMINANT FACTORS IN THE FOREIGN POLICY ARENA ARE SECURITY AND TRADE RELATIONS WITH THE US AND TRADE RELATIONS WITH JAPAN. IN US-RP RELATIONS THE SEARCHING QUESTION, HE SAID, "IS HOW LONG, AND UNDER WHAT TERMS SHALL WE ALLOW AMERICAN FORCES TO KEEP AND USE, IF AT ALL, OUR MILITARY BASES IN CLARK AND SUBIC...." HE ALSO NOTED THE GOP IS ANXIOUS TO FIND OUT HOW FAR THE US IS WILLING TO GO IN REMOVING TRADE BARRIERS. MARCOS CLAIMED THE MOST IMPORTANT PRIORITY FOR THE IBP IS POLITICAL NORMALIZATION AND URGED THE IBP TO MOVE PATIENTLY AND TO GIVE THE PARLIMENTARY SYSTEM A CHANCE TO PROVE ITSELF. HE STATED HE COULD NOT PREDICT WHEN MARTIAL LAW WOULD BE LIFTED AND REMINDE THE IBP HE STILL RETAINED THE AUTHORITY TO LEGISLATE. HE ANNOUNCED THAT LOCAL ELECTIONS WOULD NOT BE HELD IN THE IMMEDIATE FURTURE AND THAT ERRING LOCAL OFFICIALS WILL BE PURGED. IN ADDITION TO EXPANDED AMNESTY (SEPTTEL), HE REPORTED HE WOULD PHASE OUT THE MILITARY TRIBUNALS AND STRENGTHEN THE CIVILIAN COURT SYSTEM. PRESS COVERAGE OF THE SPEECH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CENTERED ON THE LOCAL ISSUES, THE LIFTING OF MARTIAL LAW AND THE FURTHER POSTPONEMENT OF LOCAL ELECTIONS, IGNORING THE FOREIGN POLICY SECTIONS OF THE SPEECH. END SUMMARY.

2. PRESIDENT MARCOS OPENED THE FIRST SESSION OF THE INTERIM BATASANG PAMBANSA JUNE 12 WITH A ONE AND A HALF HOUR STATE OF THE NATION SPEECH. SPEECH WAS SELF-CONGRATULATORY IN TONE, "NONE CANNOT BUT GLORY AT THE SIGNIFICANCE...OF EVENTS OF THE LAST FIVE AND A HALF YEARS." INITIAL PORTION OF THJE SPEECH STRESSED PROGRESS DURING MARTIAL LAW PERIOD, ESPECIALLY ESTABLISHMENT OF "TRUE SOVEREIGNTY"; IN SIXTH PARAGRAPH MARCOS, IN REFERENCE TO JOINT STATEMENT RELEASED DURING VP MONDALE'S VISIT, EMPHASIZED THAT "BARELY A MONTH AGO, THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT TARDILY BUT FORMALLY RECOGNIZED THE SUPREMACY OF OUR SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE MILITARY BASES." (THE WORDS "TARDILY BUT" WERE NOT DELIVERED BY MARCOS BUT WERE INCLUDED IN THE PUBLISHED VERSION OF THE SPEECH.) MARCOS ALSO PLAYED STRONGLY ON THE THEME OF PHILIPPINE PRIDE THROUGHOUT THE SPEECH.

3. AFTER RECITING THE LITANY OF ABUSES DURING THE PRE-MARTIAL LAW PERIOD AND THE SUCCESSES OF HIS REGIME AFTER

MARTIAL LAW, MARCOS LISTED SIX PRINCIPLES "WHICH EXPLAIN THE COURSE WE HAVE TAKEN AND SHOULD NOW GUIDE US IN OUR ACTIONS." THE FIRST IS THAT "THE SURVIVAL OF THE PUBLIC ORDER AND OF THE INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS IT SECURES RESTS ON THE ABILITY OF THE GOVERNMENT TO MAINTAIN ITS INDEPENDENCE FROM THOSE WHO WOULD SEEK TO MANIPULATE IT, OR FRAGMENT IT, OR SUBVERT IT. ... A WEAK GOVERNMENT IS NOT A SAFEGUARD BUT A THREAT TO PUBLIC ORDER, TO NATIONAL SECURITY AND TO HUMAN OR INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS." THIS WAS HIS ONLY EXPLICIT REFERENCE TO HUMAN RIGHTS. SECOND, "REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT IS REPRESENTATIVE ONLY WHEN THE MANY...ARE ORGANIZED TO ARTICULATE THEIR INTERESTS AND TO PARTICIPATE IN GOVERNMENT"; THE GOVERNMENT MUST CONTINUE TO ORGANIZE THE MASSES. THIRD, THE STRUGGLE FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT MUST BE WAGED IN THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RURAL AREAS WHERE THE MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE LIVE. FOURTH, POVERTY AND INEQUALITY MUST BE ELIMINATED. FIFTH, "THE SURE SIGN OF OUR MATURITY...LIES IN OUR ABILITY TO ALIGN THE STRUCTURE OF OUR FOREIGN RELATIONS IN CONSONANCE WITH OUR DOMESTIC GOALS AND NEEDS." AND SIXTH, THE GOVERNMENT MUST CONTROL THE COURSE OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT. THE SUCCESSSES OF THE MARTIAL LAW GOVERNMENT WERE "ASSURED BY THE MORATORIUM ON THE POLITICS OF OLD WHICH ENABLED THE GOVERNMENT TO BE FREE ENOUGH, STRONG ENOUGH AND RESOURCEFUL ENOUGH TO CARRY OUT THE PROGRAM AS PLANNED...."

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

4. TRANSLATING PRINCIPLES TO PRIORITIES FOR THE IBP, MARCOS LISTED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AS THE GOVERNMENT'S FIRST PRIORITY. SPECIFIC TARGET IS AN ANNUAL REAL GNP GROWTH RATE OF 7.7 PERCENT DURING THE NEXT FIVE YEARS (WHICH THE EMBASSY BELIEVES IS AN OPTIMISTIC GOAL) WITH TOTAL GNP GROWING TO 83,250 MILLION PESOS IN 1978 AND 112,214 MILLION PESOS IN 1982. (FIGURES ARE IN CONSTANT 1972 PESOS.) REAL PER CAPITA INCOME, HE SAID, IS EXPECTED TO GROW FROM 1,796 PESOS IN 1978 TO 2,157 PESOS IN 1982. CONVERSELY, POPULATION GROWTH IS PROJECTED TO DECLINE FROM THE CURRENT RATE OF 2.7 PERCENT TO 2.3 PERCENT BY 1982. IT REMAINS "OUR FUNDAMENTAL POLICY," MARCOS CONTINUED, "THAT PRIVATE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ENTERPRISE MUST SERVE AS OUR PRIMARY AGENT IN THE RELIZATION OF ECONOMIC ACHIEVEMENT, AND GOVERNMENT MUST ENTER ONLY THOSE AREAS OF ECONOMIC ENDEAVOR IN WHICH PRIVATE ENTERPRISE IS NOT PREPARED OR ABLE TO SERVICE NEEDS AND MEET DESIRED TARGETS." THE SECOND PRIORITY MUST BE TO "DEVOTE GREATER EMPHASIS AND PROM,OTION OF INDIVIDAL WELFARE." THIRD, WE MUST ENDEAVOR TO SECURE PUBLIC ORDER...AND MAINTAIN THE GREATEST VIGILANCE... OVER THE SECURITY OF THE REPUBLIC. MARCOS CLAIMED CREDITABLE SUCCES IN THE GOVERNMENT'S "PEACE AND ORDER CAMPAIGN AND COUNTER-INSURGENCY EFFORTS," BUT STATED THREATS TO NATIONAL SECURITY REMAIN. HE NOTED THAT THERE IS NO EXTERNAL THREAT TO THE COUNTRY, "EXCEPT FROM FOREIGN MODELS OUR OWN INSURGENTS WILL WANT TO REPLICATE." HE INDICATED THAT RECENT GOVERNMENT SUCCESSES IN MINDANAO HAVE SET OFF A NEW WAVE OF TERRORISM AND REPATED THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT LINE THAT "FRAGMENTATION OF THE LEADERSHIP OF THE SECESSIONIST REBELLION" HAS MADE IT DIFFICULT FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO REOPEN NEGOTIATIONS. THE RELAXATION OF MARTIAL LAW RESTRICTIONS, E.G., CURFEW, HAS RESULTED IN THE "PERCEPTIBLE RISE IN PETTY CRIMES" AND THE INCREASING INCIDENCE OF FIREARMS VIOLATIONS.

5. FOREIGN RELATIONS. WHILE SEEING NO IMMEDIATE THREATS TO THE PHILIPPINES FROM ABROAD, MARCOS EMPHASIXED THE

PHILIPPINES MUST KEEP A "WATCHFUL EYE ON SECURITY DEVELOPMENTS ABROAD, PARTICULARLY IN THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN REGION." MARCOS EXPLAINED THAT PHILIPPINE FOREIGN RELATIONS "ARE GOVERNED BY AN OUTLOOK THAT LOOKS UPON FOREIGN POLICY AS A TOOL FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, THAT LOOKS UPON EVERY NATION AS A FRIEND AND ALLY AND THAT REGARDS OUR PLACE IN THE FAMILY OF NATIONS AS ONE DESERVING OF RESPECT." THE DOMINANT FACTORS FOR THE PHILIPPINES ARE ITS TRADE AND SECURITY NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES, WHAT IS INVOLVED IS THE REVIEW OF A HISTORIC RELATIONSHIP THAT HAS GROWN IN WAR AND PEACE; AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE SEARCHING QUESTION ABOVE ALL IS HOW LONG, AND UNDER WHAT TERMS, SHALL WE ALLOW AMERICAN FORCES TO KEEP AND USE, IF AT ALL, OUR MILITARY BASES IN CLARK AND SUBIC, AMONG OTHERS. IN THE MATTER OF TRADE WE ARE ANXIOUS TO FIND OUT HOW WELL DISPOSED THE UNITED STATES IS IN GIVING OUR PRODUCTS EQUITABLE TREATMENT AND HOW FAR IT IS WILLING TO REMOVE TARIFF AND NON-TARIFF BARRIERS."

6. NORMALIZATION. THE FINAL, "AND PERHAPS MOST IMPORTANT" PRIORITY IS NORMALIZATION. NORMALIZATION, HOWEVER, SHOULD NOT BE MISTAKEN FOR THE "MERE RELAXATION OF THOSE CONTROLS EXERCISED BY OUR CRISIS GOVERNMENT." MARCOS ENJOINED THE IBP TO MOVE PATIENTLY AND TO CONTINUE THE TRANSITION TO PARLIAMENTARY FORM OF GOVERNMENT. HE ANSWERED HIS OWN RHETORICAL QUESTION ON THE FUTURE OF MARTIAL LAW, INDICATING THAT "WE CAN ONLY MAKE AN EDUCATED GUESS AS TO WHEN IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE, AND PROPITIOUS, FOR US TO LIFT MARTIAL LAW. THE FACT THAT THE BATASAN EXISTS ASSURES US THAT AT THE PROPER TIME WE COULD LIFT MARTIAL LAW WITHOUT BEING SUCKED INTO A LEGISLATIVE VACUUM.... BUT THE FACT THAT THE BATASAN IS HERE, READY TO DISCHARGE ITS RESPONSIBILITY, UNFORTUNATELY DOES NOT MAKE FOR AN AUTOMATIC LIFTING OF MARTIAL LAW." MARCOS REMINDED THE IBP THAT HE RETAINS THE AUTHORITY TO EXERCISE LEGISLATIVE POWERS, THOUGH HE EMPHASIZED HE DOES NOT WANT TO ACT IN THAT CAPACITY UNLESS IT IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY. NOR WOULD MARCOS PREDICT WHEN LOCAL ELECTIONS MIGHT BE HELD. "WE HAVE NOT RECOVERED FROM THE DIVISIVENESS OF THE LAST" ELECTIONS HE EXPLAINED. BEFORE LOCAL ELECTIONS CAN BE HELD, IT IS NECESSARY TO STRENGTHEN LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND REPLACE INCOMPETENT OFFICIALS.

7. IN ADDITION TO THE EXPANDED AMNESTY REPORTED REFTTEL, MARCOS STATED HE INTENDS TO STRENGTHEN THE CIVILIAN COURTS AND PHASE OUT THE MILITARY TRIBUNALS. "NO NEW CASES WILL BE ASSIGNED TO THEIR CHARGE AND THE WORK OF THE TRIBUNALS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WILL CEASE UPON DISPOSAL OF THE CASES NOW WITHIN THEIR AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY." HE ALSO REVEALED THAT IN ORDER TO PRESERVE THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE CIVILIAN JUDICIARY, HE WILL NOT UTILIZE HIS POWER TO REPLACE CIVILIAN JUDGES.

8. PRESS COVERAGE. COVERAGE OF SPEECH IN MANILA MORNING NEWSPAPERS JUNE 13 FOCUSED ON DOMESTIC ISSUES OF LOCAL POLLS AND LIFTING OF MARTIAL LAW WITH LITTLE OR NO REFERENCES TO PORTIONS OF SPEECH DEALING WITH FOREIGN RELATIONS. MOST UPBEAT COVERAGE WAS BY "TIMES JOURNAL" (OWNED BY MRS. MARCOS' BROTHER) WHICH HEADLINED "IBP ASSURANCE OF MARTIAL LAW LIFTING--FM." "BULLETIN TODAY" TOOK A MORE CAUTIOUS TACK, WITH A HEADLINE "TO MARK TIME ON LOCAL POLLS, MARTIAL LAW". THE "DAILY EXPRESS," WHICH PUBLISHED THE COMPLETE TEXT, HEADLINED "NATION PINS HOPE ON BATASAN--FM." EDITORIALY, ALL THREE PAPERS PRAISED THE SPEECH AND EMPHASIZED THE POSITIVE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE NEW AMNESTY. MURPHY

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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